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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8336
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4458
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7520
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION US-JAPAN ALLIANCE - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: The business-oriented Nihon Keizai front-paged a report from Washington on President Bush's submission of the fiscal 2007 budget to Congress. The report said that defense spending in the new budget totals 439.3 billion USD, a 6.9 percent increase from a year ago.

1. "QDR: Heighten the Effectiveness of the US-Japan Alliance" The conservative Sankei editorialized (2/7): "The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) put together by the Department of Defense not only reveals the future approach to the war on terrorism but also reexamines the fundamental nature of Japan's security policy. While calling the war on terror a long-term conflict, the QDR paints a picture of a US military capable of responding swiftly and flexibly to any sort of attack. This QDR is noteworthy in that it explicitly expresses concern over the Chinese military, describing China as the country with the greatest potential to become a military competitor.... Plans to shift the focus of naval forces to the Pacific and to constantly deploy at least six aircraft carriers in the region are aimed at raising deterrence with regard to China, as well as to the area called the arc of instability, which extends from the Middle East to the Korean Peninsula.

2. "One point of interest is the fact that the QDR cited America's allies in the Pacific in the order of Japan, Australia, and South Korea, and also hailed bilateral ties with Japan and other allies as being instrumental in maintaining the security of the international community.... Dealing with the arc of instability is a national concern that is directly related to Japan's peace and security. The US and Japan are compelled to join hands to handle international terrorism and groups

that threaten regional security. The US and Japan issued a joint statement at a meeting of foreign and defense ministers last February urging China to settle the Taiwan issue peacefully. Japan also made clear that it would not tolerate the use of force against Taiwan. In this sense, it is more incumbent on Japan than the US to heighten the effectiveness of the US-Japan alliance.... The US and Japan have agreed to compile a final report on US force transformation and base realignment in March. The idea of boosting deterrence should not be overlooked. Are Japan's defense capabilities up to the task of responding to these threats? Japan should flexibly review the final report from this standpoint."

SCHIEFFER